

Message Text

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TAGS: ECRP, GW

SUBJECT: DEPRESSED MOTOR VEHICLE SALES CAUSE DECLINE
OF GERMAN EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES DURING
FIRST QUARTER 1975

REF: BONN 08383

1. AN ANALYSIS OF THE COMMODITY BREAKDOWN OF US-GERMAN
TRADE DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1975 JUST
RELEASED BY THE GERMAN FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
REVEALS THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE OF GERMAN EXPORTS
TO THE UNITED STATES WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY DUE TO THE
WEAKNESS IN GERMAN EXPORTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO THE
UNITED STATES.

2. GERMAN EXPORTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO THE UNITED
STATES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975 PLUMMETED TO
JUST OVER HALF THE VALUE OF THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD
OF LAST YEAR. THIS DECLINE COULD NOT BE OFFSET BY
MODEST INCREASES IN OTHER PRODUCT LINES LIKE MACHINERY,
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ROLLING MILL PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS.

3. FOLLOWING IS A TABULATION OF GERMAN EXPORTS (FOB)
TO THE UNITED STATES BY SELECTED COMMODITIES IN MILLIONS
OF DOLLARS:

JANUARY - MARCH				
	1974	1975	CHANGE	
(\$ MILLION)				
TOTAL	1,665	1,355	-310	
FOOD, FEEDS AND STIMULANTS			33	31 -2
RAW MATERIALS	7	7	0	
SEMIFINISHED PRODUCTS		78	100	#22
FINISHED PRODUCTS	1,540	1,208	-332	
OF WHICH				
MOTOR VEHICLES		887	460	-427
MACHINERY	203	252	#49	
ROLLING MILL PRODUCTS		63	118	#55
CHEMICALS	100	105	#5	
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT		70	61	-9

4. COMMENT: THESE DATA SUGGEST THAT THE RECENT LUXURY
(REFTEL A) OF A BILATERAL TRADE SURPLUS WITH GERMANY IS
VERY DEPENDENT ON THE STATE OF THE US AUTO MARKET AND
OUGHT NOT YET BE INTERPRETED AS A BASIC SHIFT IN TRADE
PATTERNS.
HILLENBRAND

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